

NATURE MANITOBA NEWS

Volume 4
Issue 4
July / Aug. 2012

A newsletter for people passionate about nature

Canada's Experimental Lakes Area: Is the End Near?

by John Shearer

Where in the world can you canoe through an experimental laboratory? Of course, only at the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) in northwestern Ontario. For more than 44 years, researchers from Canada and other countries have been conducting ecosystem-scale experimental studies on a variety of small lakes while outdoor enthusiasts have been enjoying the scenic shield topography and sparkling, clear waters. Now, however, this unique and world renowned outdoor laboratory may be in its last year of operation.

“...ELA findings spurred removal of phosphates from detergents, led to reduction of acid rain...”

The ELA was established in 1968 with a mandate to address eutrophication, or nutrient pollution, the problem then destroying the Lake Erie ecosystem. Many will be familiar with how ELA

findings spurred removal of phosphates from detergents, led to reduction of acid rain through passage of clean air legislation in Canada and the United

States, and changed hydro-electric project planning by demonstrating how flooding can significantly increase both toxic methyl mercury in fish and production of greenhouse gases.

An ecosystem-scale mercury deposition experiment, started in 2001 and still being monitored, demonstrated that mercury from power plants falling on lake surfaces can move rapidly into fish as methyl mercury. Based on this

(continued on page 4...)



John Shearer

An aerial view of some of the 58 lakes and watersheds comprising the ELA facility.

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Canada Post Publications Mail Sales
Product Agreement No. 0040069231.

Issued 6 times a year as the official
publication of Nature Manitoba.
Subscriptions are a benefit of membership.
See backpage for membership details.
Opinions are those of the writers and not
necessarily the organization as a whole.

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Advertising rates are available by
contacting the editor. Rates are reduced if
the ad appears at least two times.
Classifieds are also available for only 15\$.

Submission deadline is the first day of the
month prior to the newsletter publication.

**Deadline for the Sep. / Oct. 2012 issue is
August 1, 2012.**

This newsletter is printed on Enviro 100
20lb paper which is 100% Post Consumer
Recycled and FSC certified.

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President's Corner

by Donald Himbeault

Making an impact

It's interesting the things one can find at garage sales, and the last Nature Manitoba garage sale was no exception. (By the way, many thanks to all who donated articles and came out to help make this a successful event.) Among the books for sale was a 21st anniversary edition of the Natural History Society of Manitoba *Bulletin*, which back in 1941 was the name of the publication you are now reading. The summary it provided of the first 21 years of the Society made for interesting reading.

Most surprising to me was to learn that starting back in 1927, the Society was responsible for the initiation and subsequent continuance of a successful campaign to control mosquitoes in the Winnipeg district. With a modest budget and to the great disbelief of the public that any success could be achieved, the campaign was able to make a striking reduction in the number of mosquitoes, adding greatly to residents' enjoyment of the summer. The success was so remarkable, the program was eventually copied to other regions. This contribution of the Society was deemed to have "brought numerous physical benefits to a greater number of persons than have any of its other valuable activities..."

While this story affected hundreds of thousands of people, on the other side of the scale is a story told to me by a fellow member during a recent outdoor trip about how the Society had supported him personally at a critical time in his life. The companionship extended by fellow members, the satisfaction gained from volunteering, and the respite while connecting with nature on outdoor trips, all helped him to surmount his problems.

Whether it involves a whole city or just one person, these examples illustrate the wide range of ways in which Nature Manitoba makes an impact on the world around us. As President, I get to see so many of the other great things we are doing. Common to all is our members who make these accomplishments possible.

NHSM Bulletin, 1941



Members in 1932 excavating what proved to be the most complete plesiosaur yet to be discovered in Canada. The skeleton was later reconstructed and exhibited at the Museum of Manitoba – yet another contribution of the Society to the people of Manitoba.



“Starting back in 1927, the Society was responsible for the initiation and subsequent continuance of a successful campaign to control mosquitoes in the Winnipeg district.”

Whether it's leading a trip, participating on a committee, sharing specialized knowledge with others, or just enjoying a good time and learning more about nature through one of our activities, please be assured your efforts are very much appreciated and valued. Keep up the good work, and while I probably don't have to mention this, please have fun while doing it!

And, if you hear people comment on how the mosquitoes haven't been too bad in the city this summer, perhaps you can accept their thanks on behalf of Nature Manitoba who helped make that possible.



Born as a city girl in Winnipeg, Marilyn Latta did not have much exposure to nature, aside from summer visits to her grandparents' cottage at Nutimik Lake in the Whiteshell. She did have a passion for horses though, and would bike to the outskirts of the city to ride. Once she started working she bought her own horse which she kept near Birds Hills Park.

She completed her Chemical Technology diploma at Red River College, and began working at the Human Nutrition Labs at the University of Manitoba, which she managed for 35 years. In the mid-70's, a post-doc student from Switzerland suggested that they join the MNS in order to go cross-country skiing. This was the first time that Marilyn had heard about the organization.

Marilyn took advantage of the skiing and canoe trips, and began learning more about plants and birds from other members, including John and Ella Jack, who would take Marilyn out to identify plants. She was surprised to learn from fellow members that her great uncle, Victor Latta, had been a prominent birder near Whitemouth in earlier decades. Around 1980, she began giving back to the organization, first through the Indoor Program and the

AGM, then as Vice-President of programming, and serving as President of the MNS in 1985-86. But her contributions didn't stop there – during her presidency she helped initiate the Habitat Conservation Committee, which she continues to chair to this day.

The goal of the Habitat Conservation Committee was to raise funds for conservation projects and the focus became tall grass prairie, an ecosystem that was largely ignored. “Most people really didn't know what the word ‘prairie’ meant back then.” Through nearly three decades of efforts, and programs like the Prairie Patrons Program, the committee has raised considerable awareness, hundreds of thousands of dollars, and secured hundreds of acres of prairie.

Marilyn takes beautiful photographs of plants, and describes herself as a ‘weekend botanist’, a term she coined for non-academics interested in botany (the equivalent of ‘birder’). She sits on the Manitoba Endangered Species Advisory Committee, and the steering committee for the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. Since her retirement in 2004, she has been focussed on the development of Henteleff Park – a new park along the Red River in St. Vital.

“Most people really didn't know what the word ‘prairie’ meant back then.”

Welcome New Members!

April 15th 2011 - June 14th, 2012:

Valdine Anderson
Brigitte & Ian Baragar
Sanne Cramer
Ramon Javier
Edwina Keats
Ryan Klassen
Lori Klimczak
Nancy Kolotylo
Josh Levac
Heather Miltenburg
Brendan Mulligan
Peter Panufnik
Roshan Pothumulla
Fiona Robson
Randall Shymko
Keith Smith
Heather Sorko
David Daniel Wood

North American Prairie Conference

August 6-10, 2012

The first ever NAPC in western Canada will be held from August 6 to 10, 2012 at the University of Manitoba. The theme **Celebrating Our Prairie Heritage** will explore where we have been, our current state of knowledge, and where we should be heading.

Interested in helping at the conference? Email us at info@napc2012.org, call the Living Prairie Museum at 832-0167, or call John Morgan at 467-9371.

www.napc2012.org

Prairie Day

Saturday, August 11th

Join us as we celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of the tall grass prairie! The large wildfire from last fall has altered the look of the Preserve's south block. Guided walks, special presentations, face painting and critter catching will keep everyone busy.

Admission \$5/adult; children free. Prairie Day will take place at the Prairie Shore Trail, 3 km east of Tolstoi on PR 209, from 10am to 4pm. For more info, call (204) 425-3229 or email us at tgpphq@mymts.net.

Nature in the News...

(...continued from page 1)

finding, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency now requires large power plants to reduce mercury emissions. Another experiment showed that minute concentrations of synthetic estrogen originating in birth control pills and entering waterways can impact fish reproduction by feminizing male fish. Other recent experimental studies have demonstrated impacts of in-lake cage aquaculture and examined the fate of toxic flame retardants when released into aquatic systems.

While hosting such studies, the ELA has logged an unequalled and invaluable set of data records for a wide range of atmospheric, hydrological, and in-lake

(limnological) parameters, and remains a fertile training ground for hundreds of young people now working in environmental science around the globe.

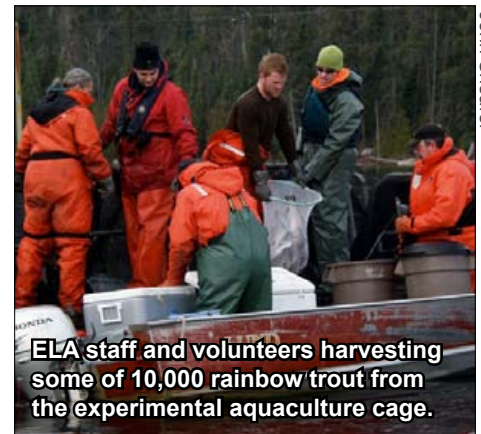
Several other important studies are ongoing, or just beginning. One is investigating the in-lake behaviour of fish selectively bred or genetically modified for rapid growth in the aquaculture industry. A second current study is looking at impacts on lake ecosystems of reduced water flow rates and levels, as anticipated with increas-

ing climatic warming. A third experimental study, just underway, is planning to investigate possible aquatic impacts of nanosilver. Silver nanoparticles, being toxic to germs, are used in socks, baby bottles, cutting boards, washing machines, and hundreds of other applications. However, they eventually make their way to lakes, where they may prove toxic to important bacteria and algae. As with earlier ELA research, none of these experimental studies could have been conducted at any other facility in Canada, or elsewhere. Only by using dedicated experimental ecosystems can one effectively assess the critical factors at play in other lakes where these problems exist.

“None of these experimental studies could have been conducted at any other facility in Canada, or elsewhere.”

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg, learned, as reported by one team member, “that, due to budget cuts and attempts to ‘re-align’ Department of Fisheries and Oceans programs with departmental priorities, the ELA will be terminated as of March 31st, 2013. Staff were told that the Government of Canada would no longer run the facility, all staff associated with ELA will receive ‘affected letters’, and no new experiments

In spite of this glowing record, on May 17th, core members of the ELA research team, based at the



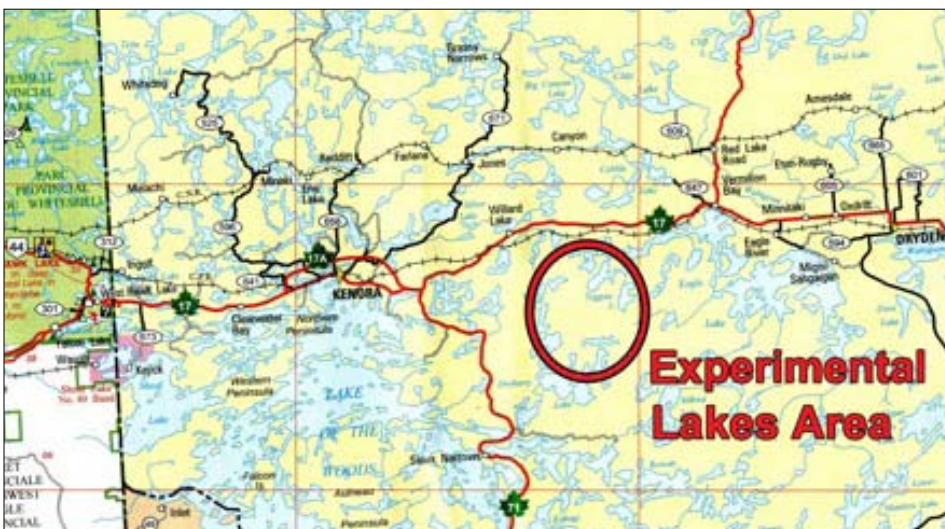
ELA staff and volunteers harvesting some of 10,000 rainbow trout from the experimental aquaculture cage.

John Shearer

will be initiated. Staff were told that the Government of Canada believes the science conducted at the ELA is better suited to university researchers, and Canadian universities will be contacted to determine if any of them are interested in operating the facility.”

This shocking news immediately spread throughout the aquatic science community, many of whom have close ties to the ELA and its research programs. Within hours, a Save ELA coalition was formed and a new web site, saveela.org, appeared. Over the next few weeks, this coalition raised public consciousness about this issue while local, national, and international media covered the story in detail. A number of national and international science organizations and individuals wrote letters to the Prime Minister and the federal Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment, encouraging them to reverse their decision.

Why, in a country where fresh water is part of our national psyche, and where protection of this irreplaceable resource is important to so many, would our federal government choose to abandon a unique facility that has been so instrumental in protecting it? With ELA staff under orders not to speak with media, DFO’s managers remained vague, or silent, about the reasons for the decision. Finally, on June 6, DFO Minister Ashfield sent a letter to newspapers in Kenora and Toronto, summarizing his department’s reasons. In part, he wrote, “The department no longer sees the need for





An aerial view of buildings in the field station which provide on-site support for the researchers.

government research on whole ecosystem manipulation and looks forward to transferring the facility responsible for that research."

Based on 38 years of involvement with the ELA and its research, much of it as facilities manager, I offer my views. While DFO is often referred to as a "science department", its senior management team has little scientific

expertise. They operate the department as a business and have limited understanding or appreciation of the science. Under political pressure from the coasts, DFO has indicated since the mid-1990s that it wishes to become an oceans department. While it did provide considerable capital funding to upgrade ELA facilities to their current excellent state, DFO has not provided significant funding, beyond staff salaries, for conducting actual experimental studies. ELA scientists were told, circa 1996, to go out and find external funding. When they responded, very successfully, auditors told ELA researchers that they were doing excellent science, but not "DFO science". Whenever departmental budgets are squeezed, as currently, freshwater science, including the ELA, is viewed as a logical target.

The federal government is best able to operate the ELA program by maintaining a dedicated, multi-disciplinary staff

that can provide the continuity required for multi-year to multi-decade studies on an ecosystem scale. Universities have always had a role, but not as primary operators. This unique facility should be treated as a national program, not as a regional operation within a department that has difficulty understanding its value to Canada and the world. If the ELA is forced to close, canoeists may continue to use the area, but for how long will Canada's lakes remain healthy?



Visit Saveela.org!

Join the more than 11,000 concerned Canadians that have already signed the petition to oppose the federal closure of Canada's Experimental Lakes Area.

Historic sites, parks to lose interpreters

(republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition May 4, 2012 A9, by Mia Rabson)

OTTAWA – Visitors to national parks and historic sites will find shorter hours and fewer services available in the spring and fall as the federal government cuts \$29 million from the Parks Canada budget over the next three years.

In Manitoba, it means outside of July and August, visitor-centre hours at parks and historic sites will be cut or eliminated except on weekends. Lower Fort Garry, for example, will not have any interpreters available on weekdays, starting in September.

The characters who bring the site to life – the blacksmiths and fur traders and wool spinners – will only be on hand on weekends.

Also in September, Manitoba's most popular national park, Riding Mountain, will cut back visitor-centre hours to five days a week (Thursday to Monday) from seven days.

York Factory Historic Site, south of Churchill, will only be open for special-event bookings. The site is remote, accessible only by water or air, and

doesn't get many visitors outside of special bookings, said Bill Fisher, a spokesman for Parks Canada.

Fisher said 26 of the 70 Parks Canada jobs in Winnipeg are being eliminated. Many of them are in a field office that provides technical and scientific expertise. "It will take longer for some work to get done," he said.

Another 18 jobs will disappear in other parts of the province. There are about 200 Parks Canada employees in Manitoba, including seasonal workers.

"We tried to address the reductions the government asked for by cutting positions and functions where it will have the least impact on visitors," said Fisher.

Fisher said the agency is cutting back on services at slower times. The summer months, when visitors are at their peak, will remain fairly stable, but there will be changes to hours and

services in most parks and historic sites in less busy months, he said.

"We're not closing any of our parks or sites," he said.

Information about the two national parks and nine national historic sites in Manitoba will be posted on the Parks Canada website.

Fisher said the changes won't begin until the

fall because there are agreements for tours with tourism operators and school groups.

He said hours for the spring may be more flexible, depending on need. School groups, for example, would only tour Lower Fort Garry on weekdays, so it might be necessary and possible to have interpreters available one or two days during the week as well in the spring.

The cuts to Parks Canada are part of a government-wide, \$5.2-billion, cost-cutting exercise which will see more than 19,000 jobs eliminated.

Encounters of the *Natural* Kind

Please send us your short stories (approx. 300-500 words) of interesting encounters with Manitoba nature.

Photos: John and Marlene Oldham



A Deer Story

by John and Marlene Oldham

Earlier this spring, John was returning from his walk at FortWhyte Alive when he used a different route than usual and came across a deer that had one hind hoof caught in the top of the fence. He tried unsuccessfully to extricate the hoof, so he ran home and got a hack saw and a crow bar while I called FortWhyte to alert them. We drove there and John cut the fence away, but needed the crowbar to lift off the hoof. Who knows how long the poor thing had been hanging there. The ground beneath it was quite torn up. Once free, the deer dropped to the ground and just laid there. Three FortWhyte staff arrived at that point, with no tools, and Bill, the director, kidded John that he would

send him a bill for the damage to the fence. (John will send him a bill for services rendered to free the deer!) After about five minutes, the deer got up and ran off, limping a bit as that leg was very sore, I'm sure. Who knows how it will make out, but it was saved from a horrible death on the fence. Last year we saved another deer in April, after it repeatedly fell through the ice on the river and then just gave up. Guess if you do something two years in a row, it becomes a tradition.



A Wolf and a Coyote

by Bob Shettler

(reprinted from the Winter 2011 issue of the MB Breeding Bird Atlas newsletter)

On June 10, 2011 Barrie Creran and I were out running a Breeding Bird Atlas point count in the southern Interlake. We were in the middle of a point count when we noticed something whitish emerge from the bush across the field from where we were stationed. It became obvious very quickly that this was a wolf. We hurried to set up the scope and took turns watching the beautiful animal.

When the wolf came out of the woods it almost looked like it was coursing with its nose, trailing some kind of scent. About 30 yards into the field, the animal sat down, then eventually lay down. As we were watching the wolf, a coyote emerged from the forest about 50 yards to the west of the wolf. The size difference was astonishing. The coyote looked small, fragile and dainty compared to the wolf. I thought



Coyote in the south Interlake.

Bob Shettler

the wolf would surely take the opportunity to chase down the coyote and dispose of it. Much to my surprise, when the coyote did spot the wolf, it casually walked away, completely unconcerned. Curiously, after the coyote walked about 60 yards, it turned around and started heading back directly to the wolf. The wolf arose and walked 10 yards toward the coyote, lay back down, and started panting. The coyote came within about

30 yards of the wolf and then eventually headed back into the forest. We watched this event unfold for at least 20 minutes before deciding we ought to return to atlassing. Several scenarios could explain why the wolf was unconcerned with our presence, and why the coyote's behaviour towards the wolf was so nonchalant. However, we will have to be satisfied with the mystery, and be glad to have witnessed the interaction.

ROGER'S RANT



...On Peter Kent's reading choices

by Roger Turenne

One good thing about no longer being president is that I no longer have to "act presidential", whether during contentious Board discussions, or when representing Nature Manitoba in the public arena. One has to "act presidential" with respect to public officials whom we might want to influence, in spite of any outrageous views these officials might hold. But there's also something to be said for letting fly, if you're not representing anyone but yourself. I'm sure many of you are familiar with Rick Mercer's Rants, not exactly the stuff that endears him to the intended targets of his soliloquies.

But these verbal sorties do have their place in public discourse as they can inform, motivate, and mobilize people in a way that quiet diplomacy cannot. Each have their role. I have no ambition to compete with Rick Mercer but, with this column, I thought I'd tackle some environmental issues in an edgier way than you might have been accustomed to in these pages. My experience in dealing with governments over the decades, both from within and without, tell me that our politicians will continue to provide us with an endless supply of rant-worthy material.

Take, for instance, our clownish federal Minister of the Environment, Peter Kent. He has become one of the chief apologists for the "environmental destruction bill", otherwise

"I'm not sure which is scarier: the fact that Mr. Kent has such a high regard for the book and its author or the fact that he seems to have no shame in publicly admitting it."

known as Bill C-38, something so rant-worthy I would need several columns to deal with all of its perverse components.

Where is he coming from? Here's a hint. Earlier this year, a newspaper article listed the books that various public figures had picked as their favorite read for the holidays. Mr. Kent picked Patrick Moore's *Confessions of a Greenpeace Dropout: The Making of a Sensible Environmentalist*. Those of you who know about Patrick Moore will immediately see what's wrong with this picture. For those who don't, here's a bit of background.

Patrick Moore was one of the cofounders of Greenpeace back in the 1970s and early 80s, but he eventually fell out of step with the others. He then parlayed this early experience into a very lucrative career as "a former member and cofounder of Greenpeace" and a propagandist for BC resource extraction industries, working to give them a green image. He is also one of Canada's more prominent climate change skeptics and occasionally pops up on Sun TV dissing "radical" environmentalists.

His latest book, like others he has produced, is a compendium of pseudo-science masquerading as an environmental treatise. Our Minister of Environment considers this his favorite book? I'm not sure which is scarier: the fact that Mr. Kent has such a high regard for the book and its author or the fact that he seems to have no shame in publicly admitting it. Pity the informed and dedicated civil servants in Mr. Kent's department who see their boss publicly praising an environmental charlatan.

There's an old website using language that I would hesitate to use even in a rant, but which gives a bit of the flavour of the controversy surrounding Mr. Kent's hero. It's called "Patrick Moore Is A Big Fat Liar" (Google that.) I took umbrage to that site once. "Such drivell" I wrote in the Globe and Mail, "Patrick Moore isn't fat..."

Mantario The Wilderness Experience

The Mantario Committee is looking forward to another exciting Summer Program. If you haven't yet decided how to spend your summer vacation, take advantage of the special discount offered to members for a fully guided and programmed week at the beautiful Mantario Cabin.

Members who would like to experience the Mantario Cabin for the first time outside of the Summer Program are welcome to inquire at the office about private or member-led trips as they arise.

Photography & Fishing

Marcel VanEerd & Marc Leclair
July 9 - 13, 2012

Explore Mantario

Leigh Cullen & Lorne Klassen
July 16 - 20, 2012

Pixie Cups to Jack Pines

Charles Burchill
July 23 - 27, 2012

Family & Swimming

Lesly Andrews & Kim Monson
July 30 - Aug 3, 2012

Astronomy & Photography

Jennifer West & Brian Hydesmith
Aug 6 - 10, 2012

Family Week

Gillian Brennan & Brian Hydesmith
Aug 20 - 24, 2012

MANTARIO SUMMER PROGRAM 2012 RATES

Adult (non-members)	\$415*
Members of Nature Manitoba (also full-time students, seniors 65+, and youth aged 14-17 with parent)	\$380*
Under 18 (only for Family Weeks)	\$140
(* Deduct \$35 for early-bird registrations before June 1st)	

5 Day Trip (includes food & t-shirt)

Nature Books of Note

The Insatiable Bark Beetle

By Dr. Reese Halter

BOOK REVIEW
by Martin Zeilig

This book is about the unintended consequences of global warming and how the native bark beetles are wreaking havoc across western North America; at risk, amongst other things, is our fresh water supply.

The bark beetles are on a tear like never before witnessed in modern or prehistoric times, having devoured over 27 million hectares of mature forests across the entire western North American continent.

The Insatiable Bark Beetle – Dr. Halter’s seventh book in the past decade – is written by a scientist with 30 years of field experience in every ecosystem from Alaska to California and from New Mexico to the Yukon.

Dr. Halter, who was born and raised in Winnipeg, is an award-winning science communicator. He’s a distinguished conservation biologist at California Lutheran University, broadcaster with MSNBC, and syndicated science writer.

Dr. Halter’s previous book, *The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination*, sold out within 18 months and has since been updated.

“Over the past 13 years the beetles have killed enough trees to build a city of eight million homes,” Dr. Halter writes.

Moreover they have very quickly adapted to speed-up their breeding cycle in the mountains throughout the West and have reduced their body size to enter the northern or boreal forests and march across the “emerald crown” to the Atlantic coast.

Until about five years ago we had never witnessed them in the Jack Pine forests. They transited from the hybrid

Lodgepole/Jack Pines of northwestern Alberta and are well and truly underway in a remarkable yet frightening tale of the unintended consequences of global warming. “Manitoba’s Jack Pine forests are also at stake,” says Dr. Halter.

The book provides examples of the benefits we receive from healthy, forested ecosystems:

1) Fresh water is provided to billions of people around the globe. Oxygen is generated, which enables all life on Earth to exist.

“The bark beetles are on a tear like never before witnessed in modern or prehistoric times.”

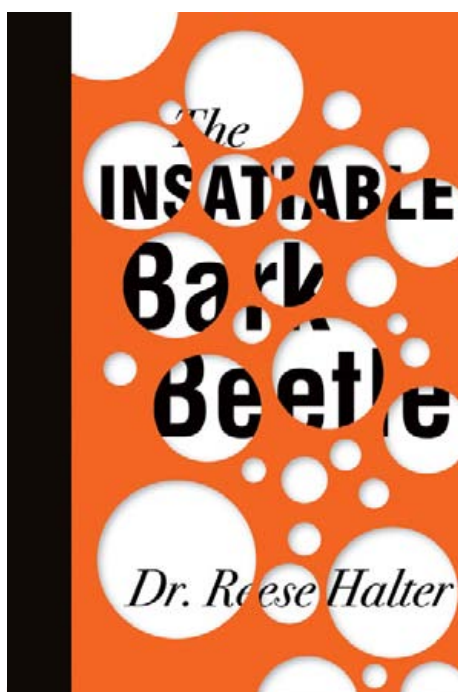
2) Billions of tons of harmful, heat-trapping CO₂ – mostly created by burning fossil fuels – are stored in the wood rather than staying in our atmosphere as pollution.

3) Snow is retained and released slowly in the springtime, feeding agricultural systems.

4) We discover powerful medicines that exist naturally in these environments, which help to fight cancer, coronary problems and other diseases.

5) Billions of tourism dollars are generated, which help sustain communities.

6) Billions of dollars in non-timber forest products are harvested, such as greens for the floral industry, nutraceuticals, nuts, berries, mushrooms, berries, maple syrup, ginseng, fragrances, resin, rubber, and more.



The Insatiable Bark Beetle, by Dr. Reese Halter. Rocky Mountain Books (October 15, 2011). ISBN 9781926855660. 176 pages, hardcover. \$16.95.

He also points out that in the spring of 2011 the largest ever recorded hole in the Northern Hemisphere Arctic ozone layer was detected – an a priori event.

“Rising temperatures in the Arctic caused bitterly cold temperature inversions to form, and rising levels of sulfuric acid from burning coal fueled that massive hole,” warns the author.

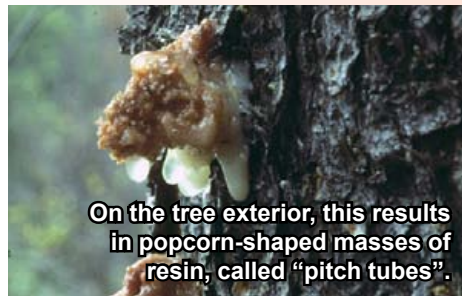
“An intact ozone layer is the life-sustaining shield protecting Earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation.”

“Over the past 13 years the beetles have killed enough trees to build a city of eight million homes.”

He observes that Sperm, Blue and Fin Whales from the Gulf of California are clearly revealing evidence of this hole because it's giving the whales skin cancer lesions.

“I trust that if you've come this far and followed my trip through our magnificent forests now being ravaged by bark beetles, you too will make the necessary changes, lend a helping hand and respect and protect our planet – the only home we have,” writes Dr. Halter, who recommends a number of easy measures families and individuals can take to become more environmentally friendly.

“As an intelligent species, it is imperative that we understand what is happening. Change is imminent. We must adapt quickly or we – and life around us – will perish.”



Interesting facts about the Mountain Pine Beetle...

- » Pine beetle larvae spend the winter under bark. They continue to feed in the spring and transform into pupae in June and July.
- » Adult mountain pine beetles emerge from an infested tree over the course of the summer and into early fall.
- » They have been found in stands of pure Jack Pine in Saskatchewan, and have adapted their body size to the smaller diameter and thinner bark of Jack Pines, as compared to their preferred host, Lodgepole Pine.
- » They are able to breed one generation or more per year.
- » Movement of wood from the west could easily bring them into Manitoba, or a storm could suck them up into the upper atmosphere and cause a “forced migration”.
- » With an unlimited food source that stretches across to Labrador (and into the US Lake States through to the Northeast), the bark beetles are TRULY a harbinger of global warming.



Lorne Wallace (1930-2012)

by Ardythe McMaster & Marilyn Latta

In April, Nature Manitoba paused, for the third time in only six months, to remember and to honour a Past President who has left us.

Lorne Wallace was president in 1971-72, a time of exciting growth and expansion within the Society. Having already chaired both Member-

ship and Program committees, he was well-prepared to preside over the many new developments under his watch. Membership, which for years had hovered around 200, suddenly swelled to over 900. The Society changed its name from The Natural History Society of Manitoba to The Manitoba Naturalists Society. There was a flourishing Junior Naturalists program. A monthly ‘Bulletin’ was launched. An office was opened in the Museum, staffed weekdays by volunteers. The annual meeting was an all-day event, with exhibits and speakers supplementing the business part of the meeting, and ended with a banquet. And for the first time, cross country skiing and canoeing were scheduled outdoor events!

Alas, this dynamic leadership was brought to an abrupt end when, barely into his second term, Lorne, a journalist with CBC, was transferred to Edmonton. There he met and married his wife, Patricia. Lorne later became an independent producer and made a number of films and docu-

mentaries. His travels to many places in the world were fueled by his interest in both people and nature. Lorne and Patricia eventually returned to Winnipeg, which was his birthplace. They also made Scotland their home and would spend half the year in Dunning, where his mother had once lived. Never one to be idle, Lorne worked on the village newspaper, turning it into an award-winning publication. In Winnipeg he became involved with Creative Retirement Manitoba (CRM), taking part in various workshops and clubs. He especially liked to work with the CRM club that assisted refugees moving to Winnipeg. He loved to walk and to look for birds and was always interested in increasing his knowledge by participating in Nature Manitoba's Workshops and Discovery Evenings.

Lorne was a man who was passionate about many things and touched many different lives with his inquisitive mind and generous spirit. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Outdoor activities

To receive weekly updates of outdoor activities, send a message to triplist@naturemanitoba.ca.

Hiking and the Vikings at Icelandic State Park

Sat. July 7th

Join Stan Skrypetz on this international excursion to the Rendezvous Region of Cavalier, North Dakota. Visit the Icelandic State Park with its scenic nature trails, museum, lake and beach. A passport is absolutely mandatory. Contact Stan at 269-1581 or cs.skrypetz@shaw.ca. [Rate 2]

Day Canoe Trip

Sun. July 8th

Join Sean Worden for a day canoe through the tunnels at Caddy Lake in the Whiteshell. Contact Sean Worden at srworden@mymts.net. [Rate 2]

Canoeing with Jerry and Les **Sat. July 14th - Sun. July 15th**

Join Jerry Ameis and Les McCann for this two-day canoe expedition to Reynar Lake in Nopiming Provincial Park. This trip is well suited for beginners – only one portage and about one hour of paddling. This leaves lots of time for playing and fishing (you will need an Ontario fishing license). Contact Jerry at raven981@mts.net or Les at lmccann2001@yahoo.com. [Rate 3]

Minnedosa and Neepawa Trails and Foliage

Sat. July 21st

Hike the trails of Minnedosa through its marshland and historic village; then onto Neepawa to walk around town to view its lilies and a lily farm. Contact Rose at rkuzina@mymts.net or phone 338-9369. [Rate 2-3]

Trip Leader Forms

Nature Manitoba's Trip Leader forms are available on our website, in the "Outdoor Activities" section under "Trip Leader Forms". Please fill them out for every trip, and return them to the Nature Manitoba office. Contact the office if you would prefer paper copies mailed to you.

Canoe Elk Island

Sat. July 28th

Join Roger Sutherland on this day trip to circumnavigate Elk Island by canoe. Register with Roger at 451-1219. [Rate 2-3]

North Whiteshell Trans Canada Trail Hike

Sat. August 4th

Join Kathy Picard for a hike on the White Lake to Betula Lake section of the North Whiteshell Trans Canada Trail. Approximately 11 km, this is a very picturesque new section of the trail. Register with Kathy Picard at 345-8422 or kdpcard@mymts.net. [Rate 2-3]

Pinawa Hiking

Sat. August 11th

Explore a part of the Trans Canada Trail around the heritage dam and suspension bridge. Traverse the ski trails along the Pinawa Channel, and join up with the town's urban trail system. Contact Rose at rkuzina@mymts.net or phone 338-9369. [Rate 3]

Prairie Day

Sat. August 11th

See page 3 for details.

Please visit www.naturemanitoba.ca for more detailed descriptions of the following extended summer canoe trips:

Milk River Canoe Trip

Fri. August 10th - Tue. August 14th

** This trip is full. **

Contact Shannon Healy at 218-2176 or vuorikiipeilija@gmail.com. [Rate 5]

Eastern Manitoba

Canoe Adventure

Sat. August 18th - Sun. August 26th

** Nearly full. Register by June 30. **

E-mail Jerry at raven981@mts.net for more info and/or to book a spot. [Rate 5]

Quetico Canoe Trip

Sat. August 18th - Sat. August 26th

** Nearly full. **

For more information, contact Sean at 781-0796 or srworden@mts.net. [Rate 5]



Group on the Hunt Lake hike on June 2, led by Les McCann. While only 13 km, Hunt Lake was a 7 hour hike over difficult terrain.

Can Li

GREY HARES

(Generally on Wednesdays)

Any Nature Manitoba members are welcome to join the Grey Hares on trips. An easier trip is usually possible if someone is willing to lead a leisurely group.

Bunns Creek Hike & Plant Tour

Wed. July 11th

Learn about the history, plants and wildlife in the Park and creek, walk the paths, and maybe take a peek into some of the gardens that back onto the Park. Pat & John Gray at 269-1765. [Rate 1]

Bike Tour of St. James

Wed. July 18th

Bike tour of various routes in St. James and West Winnipeg. June Thomson at 837-6469. [Rate 1]

Hiking in Duck Mountain

Tue. July 24th - Fri. July 27th

Camping at Blue Lake and Wellman Lake campsites, where the numerous trails are rated easy to moderate. Marilyn Hearn at 895-4659. Max. 8 people. Register by July 11. [Rate 2-3]

Paddle Kildonan Park

Wed. July 25th

Canoe or Kayak from Kildonan Park to Lower Fort Garry through or past the locks. Bryon Burvill at 233-7904. [Rate 1-2]

Garden Cycle Tour

Wed. August 1st

Join Julia Schoen for her annual cycle tour to view her specially selected gardens. Julia Schoen at 269-8004. [Rate 1-2]

Paddle or Cycle Pinawa

Wed. August 15th

Cycling, canoeing and hiking options, with choices made closer to the date. Call Pat & John Gray at 269-1765. Register by Aug. 13. [Rate 1-3]

Camping at Black Lake

Tue. August 21st - Thu. August 23rd

Camping, hiking and canoeing or kayaking at Black Lake, Nopiming Park. More leisure time for swimming by doing most of the paddling on Black Lake, rather than portaging! Charles Begley at 233-8395. Register by Aug. 15. (co-leader Jerry Zaste). [Rate 1-2]

GENERAL RATING GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL ACTIVITIES

Rate 1 Novice: Typically 2 to 3 hours duration. Little or no experience required. Easy terrain. Limited physical fitness acceptable. Weather not likely to be severe and normally we can retreat to shelter.

Rate 2 Intermediate: Typically 4-6 hours long. Some previous experience and skill desirable. Some steep or difficult terrain. Moderate physical fitness required. Seasonal weather normally not severe.

Rate 3 Advanced: Typically full day trip. Previous experience, significant skill and good physical condition required. Steep or difficult terrain. Sustained strenuous activity required. Weather not normally severe.

Rate 4 Advanced: Trip of several days duration with heavy packs, specialized equipment and skills. Effects of inclement weather and injuries more severe. Seasonal weather not normally severe.

Rate 5 Advanced: Trip of several days duration with heavy packs, specialized equipment and skills. Possible severe weather conditions – wind, cold rain, sleet – may halt trip and demand use of skilled survival techniques or make accidents or physical injuries life threatening. Aid or rescue is difficult to obtain.

PLEASE NOTE:

All those planning to participate in a trip must register with the leader beforehand, unless otherwise indicated. Space is often limited, so call early. If the leader cannot be reached, call the office at 943-9029.

As a member of Nature Manitoba you have the right to participate in all of our activities and programs, but you must provide a valid membership card. Trips are led by unpaid, non-professional volunteers.

Trip leaders may exercise discretion and decline to include any person. When registering you must rely on your own assessment of your ability to participate, based on the requirements of the trip as described in the trip rating guidelines and at www.naturemanitoba.ca.

By showing up it is understood that you acknowledged and are prepared and able to participate at the level indicated. You will be required to sign an Informed Consent and Liability Release Agreement in order to participate.

Participants must be prepared for inclement weather. Participants must have adequate clothing, water, food, must carry their own gear, and are responsible for ensuring it is in good working condition. See the Outdoor Activity section of our website for more details on the Trip Rating Guidelines.



The Grey Hares at a planning meeting in April 2012. (Back: Pat Gray, Rosemary McVicar, John Gray, Les McCann, Sharron and Brian Bettess, Al Ross & Gerry Recksiedler. Front: Jerry Zaste, Marilyn Hearn & Ute Martin)



The Grey Hares on Charles Begley's 3-day trip to Hecla in May 2011. (Front: Charles Begley, John & Pat Gray. Back: Les McCann, Jerry Zaste, Daniela Rempel & Margaret Anderson)

BIRD NEWS

by Gordon Grief

March's above normal temperatures provided many early sightings of a number of species. However, the change to normal and below normal temperatures in April and May definitely brought the migration, especially for passerines, back in line with what would be seen in most years. In the few warm days with south winds, most of the migrants appeared to fly over southern Manitoba directly to their boreal forest breeding grounds.

Trumpeter Swans appear to be continuing their comeback as there were at least 9 different sightings in various locations across southern Manitoba. There were also some phenomenal numbers of Tundra Swans seen in a number of areas.

In addition to the Trumpeter Swans, some additional noteworthy sightings during the past two months were Cinnamon Teal, Green Heron, Thayer's Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Townsend's Solitaire, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Spotted Towhee and a Spotted x Eastern Towhee hybrid.

I hope that as many readers as possible will contribute to the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas this summer. If you are not already involved, please go to www.birdatlas.mb.ca for more information as to how you can contribute.

If you have some unusual summer bird sightings be sure to send them to me at 31 Kara Cove, Winnipeg, R2N 3C2 or you can e-mail your sightings to me at ggrief@mts.net.



Trumpeter Swan



Eurasian Collared-Dove

Species	#'s	Date	Location	Observers
Ross's Goose	1	Apr 27 12	Stonewall	K. Gardner
Cackling Goose	500+	May 5 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	M. Waldron, W. Christianson
Cackling Goose	2	May 22 12	Whitewater Lake	C. Cuthbert, Whitewater Lake Bird Festival
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 4 12	Sandilands Provincial Forest	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 5 12	Seven Sisters Falls	R. Koes
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 11 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	G. Grief
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 13 12	Hecla Island	B. Shettler, P. Friesen
Trumpeter Swan	1	Apr 22 12	Ste. Elizabeth	L. Blanchette
Trumpeter Swan	1	Apr 23 12	North Shoal Lake	R. & I. Porteous
Trumpeter Swan	1	Apr 28 12	Winnipeg	G. Grief
Trumpeter Swan	3	May 20 12	Mantario Lake	J. Levac
Trumpeter Swan	4	May 21 12	Medika	P. Taylor
Tundra Swan	2,000	Mar 31 12	Winkler	J. & G. Grief
Tundra Swan	4,544	Apr 15 12	The Pas	J. Kayer
Blue-winged Teal	2	Mar 31 12	Kaleida	J. & G. Grief
Cinnamon Teal	1	May 29 12	Whitewater Lake	D. Fast, H. Lane, B. Kleiger
Greater Scaup	5	Apr 6 12	North/East Shoal Lakes	K. Gardner
Common Loon	1	Apr 2 12	Winnipeg	R. Iverson
Red-necked Grebe	3	Apr 11 12	Lockport area	G. Grief

Species	#'s	Date	Location	Observers
Eared Grebe	1	Apr 12 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	N. Butchard, L. Pearn
Western Grebe	2	Apr 14 12	Portage la Prairie	N. Butchard, A. Mickey
Clark's Grebe	1	May 9 12	Whitewater Lake	D. & F. Fast
American White Pelican	60	Apr 6 12	Lockport	S. McKay
Great Egret	3	Apr 12 12	West Shoal Lake	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Great Egret	1	Apr 20 12	Winnipeg	B. Buhler
Great Egret	14	May 20 12	West Shoal Lake	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba group
Snowy Egret	1	May 27 12	Whitewater Lake	P. Friesen
Snowy Egret	3	May 29 12	Whitewater Lake	D. Fast, H. Lane, B.Kleiger
Cattle Egret	8	May 11 12	Boissevain	D. & F. Fast
Green Heron	1	May 3 12	Headingley	B. Shettler
Green Heron	1	May 19 12	Winnipeg	M. Dorriesfield
Green Heron	1	May 23 12	Winnipeg	J. Weier
White-faced Ibis	2	May 22 12	Whitewater Lake	C. Cuthbert, Whitewater Lake Bird Festival
White-faced Ibis	4	May 25 12	Whitewater Lake	P. Friesen
White-faced Ibis	13	May 29 12	Whitewater Lake	D. Fast, H. Lane, B.Kleiger
Turkey Vulture	1	Mar 19 12	Windygates	A. Schritt
Broad-winged Hawk	~20	Apr 20 12	Windygates	B. Shettler
Swainson's Hawk	2	Apr 30 12	Headingley	B. Shettler
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Apr 20 12	Windygates	B. Shettler
Golden Eagle	1	Apr 17 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Porteous, L. Jansson, R. Clarke, R. Austin
Gyr Falcon	1	May 23 12	Whitewater Lake	C. Cuthbert, Whitewater Lake Bird Festival
Peregrine Falcon	1	May 23 12	Whitewater Lake	C. Cuthbert, Whitewater Lake Bird Festival
Prairie Falcon	1	May 24 12	Eden	R. de Mey
American Coot	1	Mar 31 12	Kaleida	G. Grief
Piping Plover	2	May 16 12	Whitewater Lake	G. Budyk, J. Weier
Killdeer	1	Mar 18 12	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Black-necked Stilt	2	May 25 12	Whitewater Lake	P. Friesen
American Avocet	1	Apr 12 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	N. Butchard, L. Pearn
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Mar 31 12	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles
Willet	1	Apr 29 12	Alexander	C. & M. Sangster
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	Apr 14 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Whimbrel	24	May 26 12	Riverton	K. Porteous
Red Knot	1	May 13 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	J. Weier, G. Walz
Hudsonian Godwit	6	May 11 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	G. Grief
Marbled Godwit	1	Apr 14 12	Ste. Anne	V. Reimer
Marbled Godwit	50+	May 5 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	M. Waldron, W. Christianson
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4	May 22 12	Whitewater Lake	C. Cuthbert, Whitewater Lake Bird Festival
American Woodcock	21	Mar 31 12	Sandilands Provincial Forest	C. Artuso
Wilson's Phalarope	1	Apr 29 12	Alexander	C. & M. Sangster
Bonaparte's Gull	6	Apr 6 12	East Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Franklin's Gull	1	Mar 31 12	La Riviere	C. Cuthbert
Franklin's Gull	1	Apr 1 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	N. Butchard
California Gull	4	May 16 12	North Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
California Gull	7	May 20 12	P. R. 227 Landfill	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba group
Thayer's Gull	1	May 20 12	P. R. 227 Landfill	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba group
Great Black-backed Gull	1	May 20 12	P. R. 227 Landfill	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba group
Caspian Tern	2	May 29 12	Whitewater Lake	D. Fast, H. Lane, B.Kleiger
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	May 11 12	Winnipeg	B. Robinson
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	May 10 12	La Broquerie	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	May 31 12	Landmark	F. Giesbrecht
Snowy Owl	1	May 12 12	Oak Hammock Marsh	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Barred Owl	2	Mar 31 12	Sandilands Provincial Forest	C. Artuso
Long-eared Owl	4	Mar 31 12	Sandilands Provincial Forest	C. Artuso
Long-eared Owl	7	Apr 10 12	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Boreal Owl	7	Mar 31 12	Sandilands Provincial Forest	C. Artuso
Boreal Owl	15	Apr 4 12	Powerview to Manigotagan	C. Artuso
Boreal Owl	18	Apr 10 12	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Boreal Owl	9	Apr 11 12	Hodgson area	B. Shettler

Species	#'s	Date	Location	Observers
Northern Saw-whet Owl	11	Mar 31 12	Sandilands Provincial Forest	C. Artuso
Northern Saw-whet Owl	21	Apr 4 12	Powerview to Manigotagan	C. Artuso
Common Nighthawk	1	May 17 12	Winnipeg	C. Curtis
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	May 6 12	Portage la Prairie	H. Braden
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	May 4 12	Matlock	G. Evans
Belted Kingfisher	1	Apr 12 12	Little Mountain Park	N. Butchard, L. Pearn
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	May 13 12	Grant's Lake WMA	K. Gardner
Alder Flycatcher	1	May 10 12	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Least Flycatcher	1	May 5 12	Eden	R. de Mey
Eastern Phoebe	1	Apr 1 12	Winnipeg	N. Schmidt
Say's Phoebe	1	May 9 12	Whitewater Lake	D. & F. Fast
Western Kingbird	1	Mar 31 12	La Riviere	C. Cuthbert
Loggerhead Shrike	1	May 20 12	Woodlands	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba group
Blue-headed Vireo	1	Apr 30 12	Winnipeg	L. de March
Philadelphia Vireo	1	May 13 12	Ste. Anne	V. Reimer
Tree Swallow	42	Apr 20 12	Windygates	B. Shettler
Sedge Wren	1	Apr 26 12	Grant's Lake WMA	K. Gardner
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Mar 31 12	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Townsend's Solitaire	1	May 2 12	Winnipeg	Fort Whyte Alive Birding Group
Hermit Thrush	2	Apr 3 12	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
American Robin	600+	Apr 11 12	Hadashville	R. Staniforth
Golden-winged Warbler	1	May 10 12	Monominto	L. Moulton
Tennessee Warbler	1	Apr 27 12	Winnipeg	R. Parsons
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Apr 23 12	Winnipeg	D. Dodgson
Northern Parula	1	May 22 12	Souris River Bend PWMA	K. De Smet
Yellow Warbler	1	May 5 12	Brandon	M. Yorke, M. Reid
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	Apr 2 12	Winnipeg	P. Friesen
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's)	1	Apr 21 12	Winnipeg	N. Schmidt
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	May 4 12	Winnipeg	C. Artuso
Palm Warbler	4	Mar 31 12	Brandon	M. Yorke, M. Reid
Black-and-White Warbler	1	May 4 12	Winnipeg	N. Butchard
American Redstart	1	May 6 12	Winnipeg	N. Butchard
Ovenbird	1	May 2 12	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Hooded Warbler	1	May 14 12	Ste. Anne	V. Reimer
Common Yellowthroat	1	Apr 22 12	The Pas	J. Kayer
Common Yellowthroat	1	Apr 24 12	Pinawa	P. Taylor
Scarlet Tanager	1	May 14 12	Whiteshell Prov. Park	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Western Tanager	1	May 3 12	Brandon area	R. & T. Will
Spotted Towhee	1	May 2 12	Winnipeg	Fort Whyte Alive Birding Group
Spotted x Eastern Towhee	1	May 24 12	Portage Sandhills	G. Budyk
Eastern Towhee	1	May 2 12	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Chipping Sparrow	2	Apr 12 12	Brandon	M. Yorke, M. Reid
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	Apr 30 12	Dufresne	B. Krosney
Lark Sparrow	1	Apr 30 12	Grant's Lake WMA	K. Gardner
Lark Bunting	1	May 24 12	Pierson	K. De Smet
Savannah Sparrow	1	Apr 6 12	East Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	May 12 12	Pierson	D. & F. Fast
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	Apr 8 12	Winnipeg	C. Meiklejohn
Swamp Sparrow	1	Mar 31 12	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
White-throated Sparrow	1	Mar 31 12	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
White-crowned Sparrow	1	Apr 26 12	Ste. Anne	V. Reimer
Harris's Sparrow	1	Apr 29 12	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Lapland Longspur	2000+	May 17 12	Elm Creek area	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Northern Cardinal	1	Apr 30 12	Winnipeg	D. Halverson
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	May 5 12	Brandon area	C. & M. Sangster
Indigo Bunting	1	May 15 12	Winnipeg	R. Porteous
Brewer's Blackbird	1	Apr 6 12	Erinview	K. Gardner
Purple Finch	50	Apr 10 12	Kleefeld	D. Fast
White-winged Crossbill	1	Mar 31 12	La Riviere	C. Cuthbert

Connie Holland Bird Study Award Granted

The Connie Holland Bird Study Fund is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the award is **Laurel Moulton**.

Laurel is currently studying the landscape ecology, habitat selection and breeding dynamics of the Golden-winged Warbler, a Threatened Species. The Manitoba population of this species is believed to be the only one where hybridization with Blue-winged Warbler does not occur. The award, in the amount of \$700.00, will help with the expenses Laurel will incur in her research.

The Fund (administered by The Winnipeg Foundation) was recently established by George Holland in memory of his late wife Connie. It is meant to encourage the scientific study of birds in the province of Manitoba. This year's award is the first.

Students in bird-related studies at any of Manitoba's post-secondary institutions may apply for the award. Donations towards the fund would be much appreciated and can be made through The Winnipeg Foundation.

George Holland, Rudolf Koes & Gene Walz

Family of Peregrine Falcon chicks at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Winnipeg.



Dennis Swayze

New Online Guide to Manitoba's Bird Species at Risk

As part of ongoing efforts to engage citizen scientists and inform more people about Species At Risk (SAR) monitoring, the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas project has launched a new website showcasing all avian SAR that breed in Manitoba. This detailed online guide provides information about what to look for regarding breeding evidence, as well as habitat photos and descriptions for 24 species.

To access the Species At Risk website, go to: <http://birdatlas.mb.ca/speciesatrisk/master.htm> or click on the image of a Red-headed Woodpecker in the top right corner of the atlas homepage. We plan to continually add information to this site, so please get in touch if you have questions, comments, or contributions. Special thanks to Richard Stecenko of the University of Winnipeg for his efforts in developing this online guide.



Least Bittern, a Species At Risk, breeds strictly in marshes dominated by emergent vegetation surrounded by areas of open water.

Benoît Jobin, Canadian Wildlife Service

October BIRD TOUR of Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, Mexico

A GREAT INTRODUCTION TO TROPICAL BIRDING!

Join Carolyn Curtis Hernandez, a long-time Manitoba birder, in a **9-DAY BIRDING TOUR** of Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve in Veracruz, Mexico. The expansive reserve consists of coastal plains, mangroves, montane forest, rainforest and Lake Catemaco.

Some of the sought after bird families include toucans, parrots, hummingbirds, woodcreepers, tropical flycatchers, tanagers and our own neotropical migrants on their wintering grounds. This is also the time of year to see **hundreds of thousands of migrating raptors** passing through the area.

Carolyn has regularly birded the area for ten years and is eager to introduce others to the beauty of Lake Catemaco and the Sierra de Los Tuxtlas.

The next trip is planned for **OCTOBER 13 – 21, 2012**. For details, please call Carolyn at **(204) 489-2483** or e-mail to chernandez@shaw.ca.

STOP THE SPREAD



PREVENTING THE PRODUCTION OF SEEDS IS KEY WHEN CONTROLLING THIS INVASIVE SPECIES

Origin

Also known as musk thistle, this biennial or winter annual is native to Europe and was introduced in the late 1800's as a contaminant of alfalfa or clover seed.

Status

Nodding thistle is found in the Pembina Valley area of Manitoba.

Impacts

Once established, nodding thistle can reduce forage for livestock and wildlife because the grazers prefer the native vegetation giving the plant a competitive advantage. It can also increase surface water runoff, soil erosion and stream sedimentation.

Where to Look

Nodding thistle prefers dry areas like gravel sites and disturbed areas such as roadsides, railroads and overgrazed land, but can invade healthy plant communities.

Control

Hand-digging or mowing can provide control if repeated over a number of years. Mowing just before seed set is effective, but the debris should be collected and burned. Severing the taproot just below ground will kill plants. *(see next page for a map...)*



LOOK FOR:

STEM: CAN GROW BETWEEN 0.2-2.5 M TALL

LEAVES: HAVE CURVY SPINY EDGES, A WAXY SURFACE AND TEND TO CLASP AT THE STEM

FLOWERS: SOLITARY FLOWERS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THE STEM AND RANGE IN COLOUR FROM RED TO PURPLE. A SINGLE FLOWER CAN PRODUCE 1,200 SEEDS WHICH CAN BE VIABLE FOR UP TO 10 YEARS. BLOOMS THROUGHOUT SUMMER.

Report a Sighting:



Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

5006 Roblin Boulevard Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 0G7

ph: (204) 232-6021 fax: (204) 986-7236

info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

Funding was provided by:

Growing-Forward A Federal-Provincial-



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alic.arid.arizona.edu/invasive/;
Bugwood.org

Mantario Cabin Policies

(Almost) everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

The Mantario Committee works hard to maintain the Wilderness Education Centre located on Lake Mantario in the Whiteshell Wilderness Zone. To ensure that this beautiful facility continues to be a legacy to future generations of nature lovers, the committee has had to establish some rules and policies over the years, given the increasing complexity of things that make the cabin unique – like the composting toilets and the Finnish Sauna. This list is not intended to scare away potential cabin users but to clarify use and operations to encourage more users.

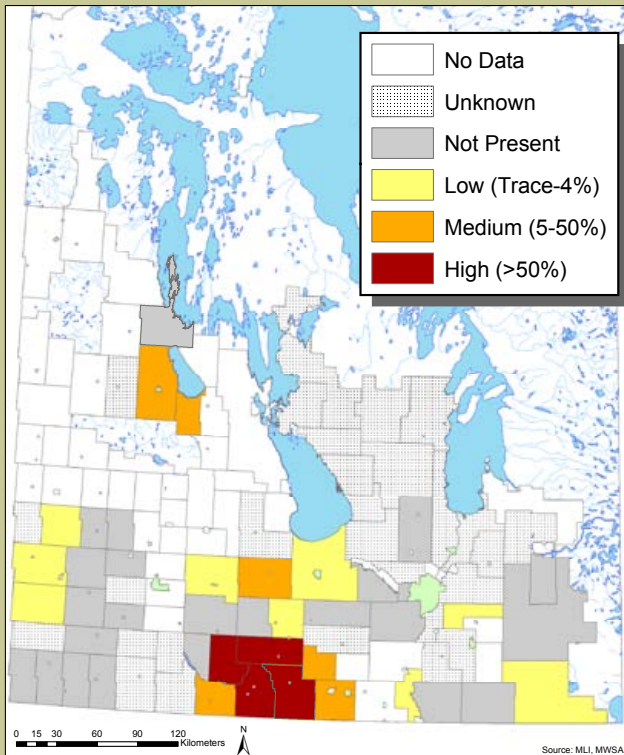
1. **Approved trip leader list:** If you would like to use the cabin but have never been there before, it is now a requirement that you first be familiar with how the cabin works. The best way to get a good introduction to the cabin is to go on a trip with an experienced cabin user or join a work party. Please contact the Nature Manitoba office to find out when the next trip is headed out and jump on board! Once you feel familiar with the cabin operations and can show you know what to do, your name will go on an Approved Leader list and you can lead your own groups to the cabin.
2. **Multiple groups** can book the cabin to a maximum of 16 in the summer. The recommended maximum in the winter is 12, unless the first-booking group leader is OK with 16.



The Mantario Cabin and lake-side sauna, available for members to rent for personal and member trips, once experienced with cabin operations.

3. **Cabin fees** are \$20 per night for members, \$15 for students, and \$35 for non-Nature Manitoba members.
 4. **Cabin duties:** When there are multiple groups staying at the cabin, the first-booking group's leader shall assign cabin duties - BUT most people chip in and help regardless, right?
 5. **Dogs:** are allowed at the discretion of the first-booking group's leader. We ask dog owners to please be aware of allergies and the strenuous nature of the trip for the sake of your BFF (Best Furry Friend).
 6. **Propane:** Use of the propane stove (used for Summer Program) during the Winter season is allowed at the discretion of the first-booking group's leader.
 7. **Alcohol** at the cabin is not generally allowed but individuals may bring small personal amounts; pack in and pack out the containers, NO glass. It is extremely foolish, not to mention illegal, to operate a boat – including a canoe – while inebriated.
 8. **Nudity in the sauna:** Let's be frank about this – although the traditional way of using a sauna is in the all-together, not everyone is comfortable with that, especially in a public facility among strangers. Therefore, our policy is that it's officially not allowed. We ask that those wishing to practice traditional sauna-use to be aware and respectful of the sensibilities of other cabin users.
 9. **No smoking in the cabin or sauna.** Please get your nic-fix on the airplane dock or rocky shoreline only, and pack out your butts.
 10. **Use of cabin food:** The supply of food at the cabin is for Summer Program use only, so regular cabin bookers can not use the food on the shelves. It's a huge effort and expense to schlep all that stuff out there. However, cabin renters are welcome to have-at the left-overs on the "Free" food shelf and if you're desperate, snatch some spices and cooking oil.
 11. A complete list of **Mantario Cabin Operation Instructions and Cabin Rules** is available online for perusal at www.naturemanitoba.ca.
- Please contact the Nature Manitoba office at 943-9029 or info@naturemanitoba.ca if you have any questions or concerns about these or other Mantario Cabin policies and procedures.

Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans*) Infestation in Manitoba Municipalities in 2011



Invasive Species Council of Manitoba
www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com
(204) 232-6021

(...map for previous page)

*An estimate is based on the % of sections (640 acres) infested within a RM

April 2012

Birds Hill Provincial Park

Draft Management Plan



Manitoba

BIRDS HILL MANAGEMENT PLAN

If you're a user of Birds Hill Provincial Park, you'll want to have a look at the Draft Management Plan, released earlier this spring.

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/pdf/public/birdshill_draft_management_plan.pdf

It covers all aspects of park management, including natural features, recreational activities, interpretation, cultural history and First Nations' use. Some things planned for the next five years (2012-2017) include:

- » campground expansion of 100 to 125 fully-serviced sites;

- » development of a new visitor centre at a more central location in the park, near the Overlook Picnic Area;

- » preparation of a trails plan that will include the phasing out of snowmobile trails so that all trails will be non-motorized;

- » preparation of a plan to guide management activities for selected remnants of native prairie and bur oak grassland;

- » expansion and upgrade of the beach area and facilities, including a strategy to regularly rehabilitate the swimming area in order to maintain water quality.

THE EDGE
presents

HORI-ZEN YUKON

Images Shared by Kelly Fraser

STILLNESS



BEAUTY



SILENCE



PEACE



SOLITUDE



TRANQUILITY

THE EDGE

611 Main Street, Winnipeg

Opening Reception, Friday July 6, 7 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Exhibit is open from July 6 to July 12

The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 12 noon to 6 P.M. & Saturday 2 P.M. to 8 P.M.

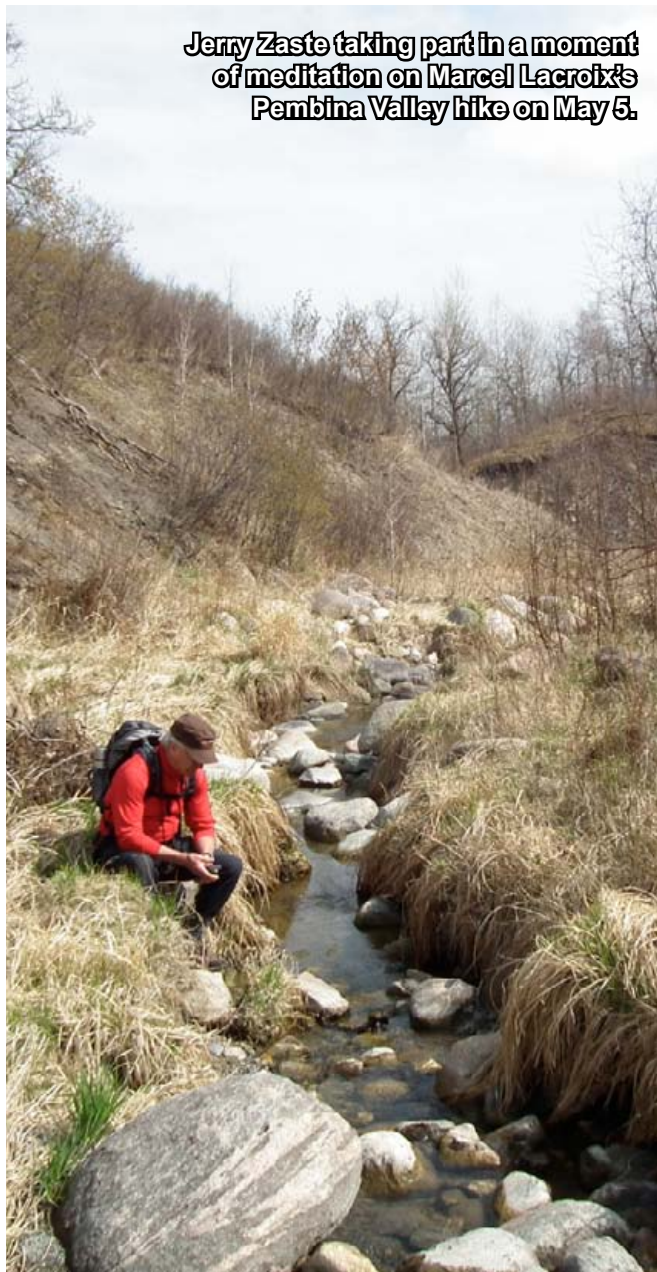
Also open by appointment by calling 204-880-0771

Silent auction to
benefit:



Bridging the Gap
www.bridgingthegap.co

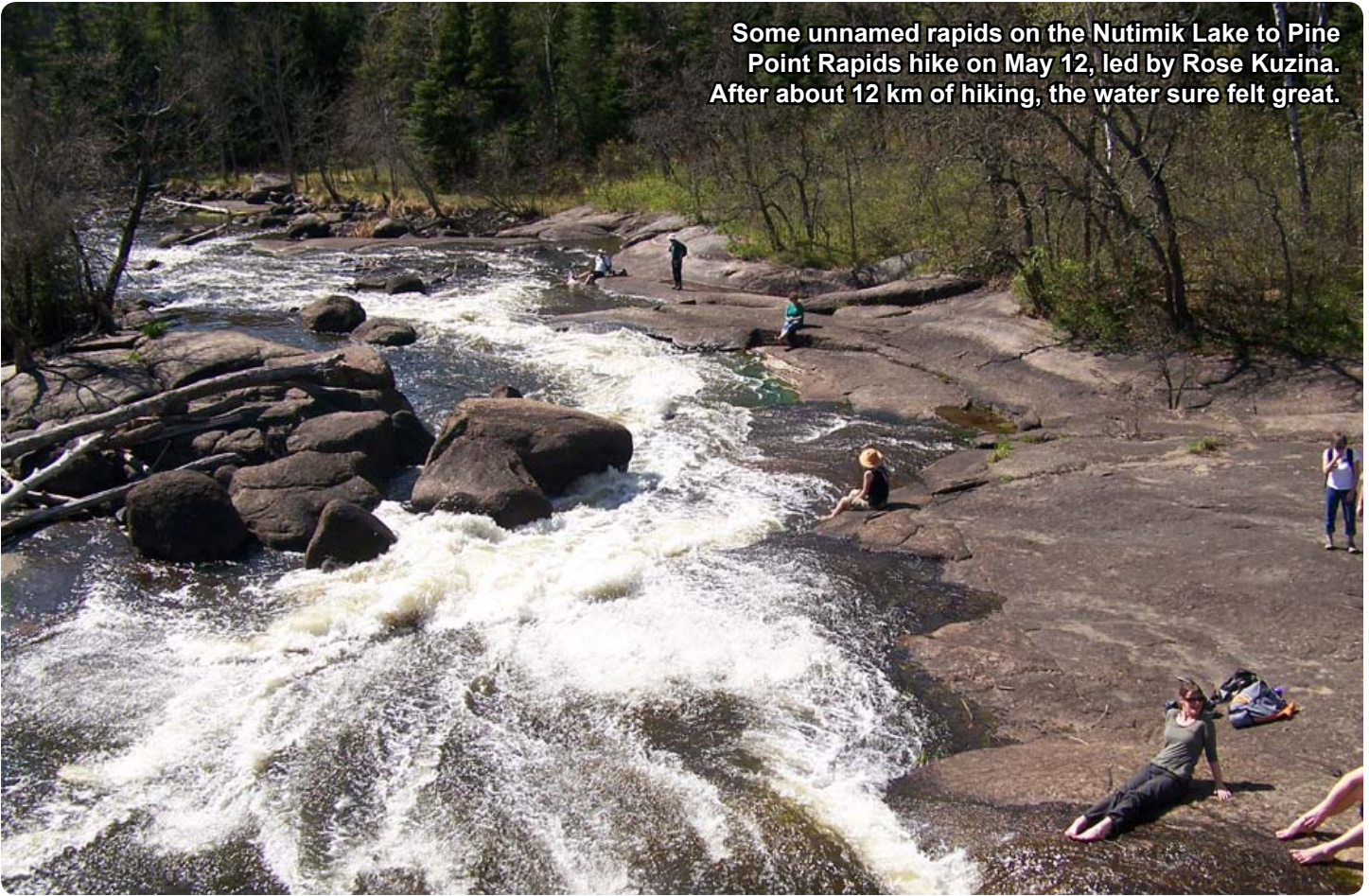
Jerry Zaste taking part in a moment
of meditation on Marcel Lacroix's
Pembina Valley hike on May 5.



Les McCann

Some unnamed rapids on the Nutimik Lake to Pine Point Rapids hike on May 12, led by Rose Kuzina. After about 12 km of hiking, the water sure felt great.

Rose Kuzina



Paddlin' on the Red

May 20, 2012 – This Red River paddle group joined Marcel Lacroix for a day canoe trip down the Red River, from St. Adolphe to the ruins of the Trappist Monastery located along the La Salle River in St. Norbert.

Group Photo – Top: Can Li, Jessica, Marcel Lacroix, Don Himbeault, Alain Himbeault. Bottom: Norm Asher, (name withheld), (name withheld), Les McCann.

Bottom Photo – Nature Manitoba member enjoying the view across the Red River.

Les McCann



Les McCann



401-63 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1G4
Phone: (204) 943-9029
info@naturemanitoba.ca



Become a Member of Nature Manitoba!

Individual \$40, Family \$55, Student \$20, Senior \$35

Join online at www.naturemanitoba.ca.

About Nature Manitoba

Nature Manitoba is people sharing a passion for nature. Since its foundation in 1920, Nature Manitoba's mission has been to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of nature, and to preserve and enjoy it. In support of this mission, Nature Manitoba offers a wide variety of educational programs and publications, supports research into Manitoba's biological and geophysical diversity, organizes field trips and outdoor activities year-round, and advocates for the protection of our natural environment.

TOURS FOR NATURALISTS



THE SUNSHINE COAST FOR NATURALISTS

23-27 July 2012 (5 days)

Cost \$1550 (dbl occup) + HST from Vancouver

The Sunshine Coast exemplifies the best of coastal British Columbia as the temperate rainforest meets the blue of the Salish Sea in a confusion of magnificent fjords and green islands. We visit the Sunshine Coast's scenic highlights, including a **full day cruise to world famous Princess Louisa Inlet**. We also visit Jedediah Island and take a sunset cruise. Our base is the Rockwater Secret Cove Resort. **The Sunshine Coast's culinary offerings are an important part of this tour and we will sample the best available.**

All meals are included, except for 4 dinners.

OTTERS, ORCAS & GRIZZLIES

10-14 September 2012 (5 days)

Cost \$1825 (dbl occup) + HST from Vancouver

In an increasingly crowded world British Columbia is a wilderness bastion renowned for its wildlife & scenery. **On this tour to Vancouver Island we expect to encounter three of BC's most charismatic species, Sea Otters, Orcas & Grizzly Bears.** The tour includes three separate boat excursions, all set against a backdrop of stunning ocean & mountain scenery.



BC FALL COLOURS/WATERFALLS

6-9th October 2012 (4 days) Cost \$725 (dbl occup) +HST from Vancouver

This tour has the dual objective of visiting 15 of BC's greatest waterfalls at the time of year when the interior landscape is ablaze with the golden foliage of maples, cottonwoods, aspen and birch. We visit Wells Gray PP, "the waterfall park", and admire some of its great waterfalls including Helmcken, Spahats & Dawson. The itinerary also takes in the Cariboo, the Duffey Lake Road & the Sea to Sky Highway. Participants will receive a signed copy of tour leader Tony Greenfield's book 'The Waterfalls of BC'.



ARIZONA IN FEBRUARY

20 Feb. - 3 March 2013 (12 days) Cost \$2600 (dbl occup) from Phoenix
Arizona is home to some of the most unique, famous and unforgettable landscapes in the world. The Grand Canyon, the mesas and buttes of Monument Valley and the silhouette of a saguaro against a golden sunset are images so famous that we have grown up with them since childhood. The tour includes The Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly, Sedona, and the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. Join us for a midwinter tour to the blue skies and fascinating deserts of this famous state.



SOUTHERN UTAH & DEATH VALLEY

19-30 April 2013 (12 days)

Cost \$2750 (dbl occup) from Las Vegas

Planet Earth contains an infinite variety of landscapes, but in southern Utah random geologic events have conspired to create rare, unexpected and beautiful consequences. The mighty Colorado River, aided by the arid erosion cycle, has waged battle across the eons with the sandstone strata and fashioned landscapes so unique and bizarre that they are more redolent of an extra-terrestrial origin. We visit **Bryce Canyon, Valley of the Gods, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Monument Valley, Zion Canyon** and more + **Death Valley.**



Leader: Tony Greenfield

WHISKEYJACK NATURE TOURS

BOX 319, SECHLT, BC, V0N 3A0

Tel: 604-885-5539, E-m: tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com

Details & itineraries at website: www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com

BC reg #34425



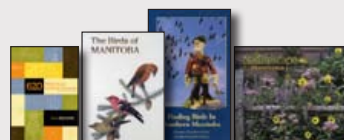
NATURE MANITOBA STORE



Front



Back



www.naturemanitoba.ca

Mantario
The Wilderness Experience



Trips in July & August.
See trip details on page 8,
or click on 'Mantario' at:
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